ready except a small stretch passing through defence land;

(c) what are the reasons for not considering the request so far, since it is for the public purpose and will help to relieve the traffic congestion at Bangalore; and

(d) whether Government will consider the request in the public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Defence have agreed to transfer 17 acres and 14 gunth as of Defence Land (17 acres in Agaram Plains, 9 gunthas in Sy. No. 53 of Iblur Village and 5 gunthas in Sy. No. 21 of Haralakunte village) to the State Govt. of Karnataka for the Ring Road Project in exchange for State Govt. land of equivalent area and payment of difference in the value of Defence land and State Govt. land.

Establishment of firing range in Jharkhand region

6355. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are being made by defence ministry to establish a field firing range in tribal region of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any resistance by the tribals to the project and if so, details thereof;

(d) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news items "Army Project main issue in Jharkhand region" that appeared in the Hindu dated 2nd March, 1995; and

(e) whether Government will relocate the project outside Jharkhand region in view of the opposition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) There is already a Range notified by Government of Bihar since 1956 and upto May 2002. Keeping in view the needs of the Army, a Pilot Project was taken up to acquire some of the land for impact area, camping ground etc. Considering the representations received from local population, the Central Government have decided not to progress this Pilot Project.

(d) and (e) The Government is aware of the captioned news item. The State Government of Bihar have agreed to make available an alternative site to relocate the Project.

Expansion of Naval Training Centre at Orissa

6356. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand the Naval Training Centre at Chilka in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The existing training facilities at Chilka are considered adequate to cater for the present level of induction in the Navy. As such, there is no plan for expansion of Naval Training Centre at Chilka.

Enquiry against Air Force Depot, Avadi

6357. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an enquiry has been completed against the Air Force Depot at Avadi for holding on with stock and stores of shop-soiled shoes/boots for airforce personnel;

(b) whether the quality of such shoes has been compromised and the procurement of about 30,000 pairs has been a total loss;

(c) whether Government have determined the lapses and misconduct of officers responsible for such low-graded procurement; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) Two indents, for supply of qty. 25,000 and 2,500 pairs of shoes, were placed on a public sector undertaking on 5th Sept, 1990 and 19th Aug., 1991 respectively; through DGS&D. The shoes were supplied by the firm from March, 1992 to May 1992. The stores were inspected by Directorate General Quality Assurance. Out of total qty. of 27,500 pairs of shoes approximately 13,000 pairs have been found substandard. The matter has been taken up with the supplier to replace/repair the defective stores. As per the warranty clause in the supply order the supplier is bound to rectify or replace the rejected stores. In view of the acceptance of poor quality of shoes during inspection the erring officials of DGQA have been punished.

Visit of the Chinese Defence Minister to New Delhi

6358. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China's Defence Minister recently visited New Delhi;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the visit alongwith the details of the discussion held with him and the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether the supply of M-11 missiles by China to Pakistan, and other arms, aircraft and equipment, including military hardware, were discussed with him in the context of the peace scenario in this subcontinent; if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The Chinese Defence Minister Gen Chi Haotian visited India in September, 1994. This was a return visit to the visit of Raksha Mantri to China in 1992 as a part of the policy of the Government of India to improve relations with neighbouring countries including China. During the visit topics of mutual interest were discussed.

Acquiring of Lakshya

6359. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to acquire a batch of 'Lakshya' Pilotless Target Aircraft, displayed during this year's Republic Day Parade; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and the details of the acquisition arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The pilotless target aircraft is proposed to be acquired for training in anti aircraft gun fire and tracking/realistic simulation of enemy aircraft for air-to-air and surface-to-air weapon system. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Bangalore has been designated as the production agency for LAKSHYA. However, pending transfer of technology to HAL, for which process has been initiated, limited series production has been planned at Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bangalore, a DRDO Laboratory.

Purchase of Advanced Jet Trainers

6360. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 613 given in the Rajya Sabha on the